

Spectator Expectations and Behavior Guidelines

These guidelines apply to National History Day in Minnesota Regional/District contests and the Minnesota State History Day contest.

Spectator Expectations

Spectators must be respectful of student presenters, judges, and event staff. In general, spectators should avoid behavior that would compromise the quality of judging. Please note that spectators:

- Should not enter or exit a competition room while the presentation is taking place. When possible, please also try not to enter or exit during the interview portion, but it is permissible.
- May not question students during the interview period.
- Should minimize possible distractions to students and/or judges, such as cell phones or media.
- Should give ample physical space to judges for project review, questioning, and comment writing.
- Should follow all spectator photography and videography guidelines.
- Should not personally approach or question the judges about a project's ranking during or after the interview.

Viewing Student Presentations

There are opportunities to view all types of projects at a History Day competition. If a room is open to public viewing, student presenters are not able to request that judges or event staff remove spectators unless spectators are being disruptive.

Documentaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-Round: Spectators may view Documentaries and interviews as they are presented according to the event schedule. • Final-Round (State): Spectators may view Documentaries as they are presented according to the event schedule.
Exhibits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-Round: Spectators may view Exhibits and observe interviews while areas are open for public viewing. See event schedule for specific times. • Final-Round: No students or spectators are allowed in Exhibit areas during the Final-Round of judging.
Papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-Round: The first-round of Paper judging is done off-site. There are no student interviews. First-round papers are not posted or displayed. • Final-Round (State-only): Papers are on display at the event. Spectators may listen to interviews but should not expect the student to present the entire project.
Performances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-Round: Spectators may watch Performances and interviews as they are presented according to the event schedule. • Final-Round (State): Spectators may watch Performances as they are presented according to the event schedule.
Websites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-Round: Website URLs are available at the event for viewing on personal devices. Spectators may listen to interviews, but should not expect the student to present the entire project. • Final-Round (State): No students or spectators are allowed in judging areas during the Final-Round of judging.

Disruptive Spectator Behavior

Disruptive behavior has the potential to undermine the contest and impact the quality of the student and/or judging experience. This type of behavior may include, but is not limited to:

- Shouting, yelling, or speaking at a volume that distracts or impedes the student presentation or judge questioning, either within the presentation room or in areas adjacent to the presentation room
- Running, pushing, shoving, jumping, or any other potentially harmful behavior (to self or others)
- Use loud, abusive or otherwise harassing language. Harassment is unwelcome verbal or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward a person based on race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, age, marital status, familial status, or status with regard to public assistance when such conduct has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or disruptive environment.

Handling Disruptive Behavior

1. A judge or mentor may ask a spectator to stop a disruptive behavior if they feel it is impacting the quality of the student and/or judging experience.
2. A judge or mentor may ask the spectator to leave the area.
3. A History Day staff member may be called to assess the situation and may ask the spectator to leave the area.
4. If the behavior continues, the History Day staff member will determine if it is necessary to contact campus security.

**Please contact Minnesota History Day staff with any questions
about these guidelines.**